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Village Life: Dec. '53, 20

Vosahlik, Jaromir: Jan. '53, 16-17

"Voluntarism": May '53, 35; Aug. '54, 7-8; Sept. '54, 45; Nov. '54, 10, 14

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ZMP, see Youth

Zapotocky, Antonin: May '53, 11-12; June '53, 17

Zsofinyecz, Mihaly: Aug. '53, 13

How It Happened

The Soviet and German invasion of Poland in 1939 and the partitioning of the Polish State by the two powers are still a source of embarassment to Polish-Soviet relations. Thus, both the Soviet authorities and the Warsaw regime are at constant pains to "explain" the Soviet Union's role in the aggression. Numerous articles are dedicated to this problem in the press of both countries. Rationalizing this aspect of Polish-Soviet history is the entire function of a book entitled "The Fiasco of the Imperialist Plan With Regard to Poland in the Years of World War II," composed of four articles and published by the State Political Publishing House in Moscow.

According to a review in the November 1953 issue of *The Institute of Slavyanovyedenye,* monthly organ of the Slavic Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the book "describes the victorious struggle of Polish and Soviet nations for a strong, independent, and democratic Polish State during 1938-1947."

The contents of the first article, by V. I. Fomin, are described as follows: "The article ends with the fully justified conclusion that the Polish-German war, launched by Nazi invaders who set out to conquer the world, was prepared by Anglo-Franco-American warmongers and the anti-masses, anti-national and anti-Soviet policy of the bourgeois-landlord ruling classes of Poland, and that the Soviet Union had done everything possible to bar the way of the fascist aggressors in order to save the Polish nation from total destruction."

"Conclusions as to the essentially treacherous policy of Anglo-Franco-American imperialists toward Poland also find justification in the second article of the book: 'The Struggle of the USSR for collective security and for the independence of Poland in 1939'," the review states.

The Soviet invasion of Poland already engaged in battling the Nazis is explained by the second article as follows: "In this situation, on September 17, 1939, the Soviet government ordered the Red Army to take under its protection the life and property of the inhabitants of the Western Ukraine and Western Bielorussia." "It was an act of supreme justice and raison d'état," says the author, M. E. Boguslavsky. "The Soviet government saved from servitude and death not only millions of our brother Ukranians and Bielorussians, but also millions of Poles from the eastern parts of the country. It was the only possible help which the Soviet Union could render to the Polish nation at the time when the country was left to the whim of fate by the ruling classes of Poland and by the Western Powers."

The third article, by G. M. Slavin, is dedicated to the Yalta Conference and ends with the statement that "at the Crimean Conference the Soviet delegation managed to save Poland's independence and secure a democratic solution of the Polish question, which fact became the decisive factor in today's great achievements of the Polish nation in the task of building Socialism."

The last article, by I. N. Malukievich, is, according to the review, a summary of the Soviet Union's "struggle for the formation of a strong, independent and democratic Poland."

The Free Europe Committee was founded in 1949 by a group of private American citizens who joined together for direct action aimed at the eventual liberation of the peoples of the Iron Curtain countries. With the help of endowments and public contributions to the Crusade for Freedom, the Committee has set up, among other activities, Radio Free Europe. The Committee's efforts are focused on the captive countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In these efforts the Committee counts among its active allies the democratic leaders—scholars, journalists, political and economic experts, and men of letters—who have escaped from the Communist enslavement of their native lands.

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Free Europe Committee, Inc.
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